

# Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

## Briefing for Tribal Representatives

Wednesday, December 18, 2003

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Bureau of Reclamation  
South Central California Area Office  
Fresno, California

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees

Helen George	Picayune Rancheria
Kathleen Childers	Big Sandy Rancheria
Tim Fahey	Table Mountain Rancheria
Ric Contreras	Big Sandy Rancheria
Irenia Quitiquit	California Bay-Delta Authority
Chris Bujalski	BIA
Frank Perniciaro	Reclamation
David Wolley	Reclamation
Kathy Wood	Reclamation
Anastasia Leigh	Reclamation
Patrick Welch	Reclamation
Jason Phillips	Reclamation
Erin Quinn	Reclamation
Marlene Johnson	Reclamation
Bill Swanson	MWH
Coral Cavanagh	Curalium Consulting

#### Introduction

Frank Perniciaro welcomed meeting participants and summarized meeting objectives. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) and a preview of activities planned for the Investigation as the feasibility study is prepared.

#### Storage Investigation

Jason Phillips and Bill Swanson gave an overview of the Investigation and described the activities since the last briefing. They explained that the Phase 1 report was completed, and they provided copies of the document. They reviewed the major findings from Phase 1 and provided an overview of feasibility phase activities, which will include environmental documentation. The schedule for the Investigation, which anticipates completion by 2006, has been developed but is contingent upon funding. The next public meeting will be in February to begin scoping for the environmental documentation process. An Alternatives Report is scheduled for completion in August 2004.

Attendees commented and asked questions as follows:

*What is the potential range of costs for a project?*

Preliminary estimates range from \$100 million to \$1.5 billion and include planning, environmental documentation, design, construction, and operation and maintenance over the 100 year project life.

*In what document and in what timeframe will cost-share partners be identified? Are there ever circumstances in which the Federal interest is so compelling that the cost share requirement is waived?*

Yes, that is possible although not probable. Cost-share partners will most likely to be presented in the Draft Feasibility Report along with any non-federal repayment plans.

*At the Friant site, would you have to pay the homeowners whose property would be inundated?*

Landowners would be compensated for any impacts the project would cause on their property.

*One of the potential sites is near the experimental vegetation station. Will the presence of *Carpenteria* be an issue?*

Preliminary mapping shows that some of the *Carpenteria* could be affected by a potential project. The Investigation will need to take into account any potential effects on the experimental station and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

*One Tribal member has property that goes almost down to the sandbar in the RM286 area. How big would a dam at RM286 be?*

It would have a length of approximately 1,000 to 1,400 feet and could be as high as elevation 1400'.

*The bridge at Kerchoff Lake that would be affected by a reservoir at the RM286 site was replaced just two years ago. It is used heavily by many local people, recreation visitors, as well as loggers and the forest service. Buses from two local high schools use the bridge. How would the loss of this bridge be mitigated?*

A mitigation strategy for the loss of this bridge has not yet been developed.

*Would PG&E be compensated for the loss of its facilities?*

Yes, as would Southern Cal Edison, which owns some of the power facilities.

*Who will get the additional water made available by a storage project? Has that been decided?*

While it is anticipated the water will go to the purposes designated by the CALFED ROD, allocations of the water have not been made.

## **Upcoming Activities**

Reclamation will plan a tour of the potential sites for Tribal representatives in spring 2004.

Frank expressed that it is probable that consultation with local tribes about Upper San Joaquin Surface Storage will need to take place at some point in time. Frank asked tribes to consider the

manner in which each tribe would prefer consultation to take place and the subjects Reclamation and the tribe should consult about, such as impacts and benefits.